Claims

[c1]   What is claimed is:

1.A method of providing device-dependent print data to a printer by a computer system, the computer system comprising:

an operating system having an upper layer for controlling a graphical device interface, and a lower layer for controlling input/output activities;

the method comprising:

providing a printer manager for generating the print data, the printer manager comprising a device-dependent converter for converting input data into device-dependent output data;

providing encoded data to the printer manager;

the printer manager decoding the encoded data to generate raw data, and utilizing the converter to convert the raw data into the device-dependent print data without utilizing the upper layer;

providing the device-dependent print data to the lower layer; and

the lower layer of the operating system outputting the device-dependent print data to the printer.

[c2]   2.The method of claim 1 wherein the converter converts the raw data into gray-level image data and converts the gray-level image data into the device-dependent print data.

[c3]   3.The method of claim 1 wherein the converter converts the raw data into cyan-magenta-yellow-black (CMYK) image data and converts the CMYK image data into the device-dependent print data.

[c4]   4.The method of claim 1 wherein the printer manager further comprises a user interface for configuring the printer manager, wherein the converter converts the raw data into the device-dependent print data according to configuration information of the user interface.

[c5]   5.The method of claim 1 wherein the printer manager further comprises a compressor for compressing the device-dependent print data, and the printer comprises a decompressor for decompressing the compressed device-dependent print data.

[c6]   6.The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a joint photographic experts group (JPEG) format.

[c7]   7.The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a graphics interchange format (GIF).

[c8]   8.The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a bitmap (BMP) format.

[c9]   9.The method of claim 1 wherein the encoded data is stored in a tag image file format(TIFF).